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Message Text

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R 192027Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196782

FOL REPEAT OF NEW DELHI 11193 TO SECSTATE INFO DACCA BOMBAY
CALCUTTA MADRAS AUG 19

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11193

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, US
SUBJECT: ACCUSATIONS OF USG COMPLICITY IN BANGLADESH COUP

1. PRIME MINISTER GANDHI SENT JYMESSAGE TO THE ALL-INDIA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION WHICH HELD A CONDOLENCE MEETING IN NEW DELHI AUGUST 18 FOR THE LATE SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN. SHE EXPRESSED DEEP SHOCK OVER THE ASSASSINATION OF MUJIB, HIS FAMILY AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND DESCRIBED HIM AS A GREAT NATIONAL LEADER AND STATESMAN. SHE SAID THAT THE INDIAN PEOPLE HELD HIM IN "DEEP RESPECT AND AFFECTION AS A FRIEND OF THIS COUNTRY..." THE MEETING WAS ADDRRESSED BY CONGRESS PARTY AND CPI MPS. COMMUNIST MP BHUPESH GUPTA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MUJIB WAS KILLED BY THOSE WHO WERE "BACKED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND THE CIA." GUPTA CLAIMED THAT THE SHEIKH'S DEATH WAS PART OF A "CONSPIRACY OF RIGHT REACTION AND U.S. IMPERIALISM." ROMESH CHANDRA, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPI FRONT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, TOLD THE MEETING THAT WHEN HE VISITED BANGLADESH IN APRIL THIS YEAR, HE KNEW THAT A NUMBER OF CIA AGENTS WERE OPERATING THERE; MANY WERE WORKING AS VOLUNTEERS IN AID-GIVING SOCIETIES. HE CLAIMED THAT WHEN HE MEN-
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TIONED THIS TO MUJIB, THE LATTER SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THEIR ACTIVITY. CHANDRA URGED DEVELOPING NATIONS TO UNITE AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM AND SAID THAT INDIANS MUST REALIZE THAT U.S. FINANCE

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WAS SUPPORTING THE FORCES HAMPERING GROWTH IN INDIA. THE USA, HE SAID, HAD TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE SUB-CONTINENT AFTER GETTING BURNT IN SOTHEAST ASIA. CPI GENERAL SECRETARY RAJESHWAR RAO ALSO TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE CIA WAS BEHIND THE BANGLADESH COUP. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, LEFT WING CONGRESS MPS, SAT PAL KAPOOR AND VYALAR RAVI, SHARED THE VIEWS OF RAO AND GUPTA BUT THEIR COMMENTS WERE NOT QUOTED.

2. ACCORDING TO THE BENGALI LANGUAGE "ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA" AUGUST 19, THE CHIEF OF THE WEST BENGAL CONGRESS PARTY YOUTH MOVEMENT, DA MUNSHI, SAID: "ASSASSINATION (OF SHEIKH MUJIB) ONCE AGAIN PROVES HOW ACTIVEICHE CIA AND CHINA ARE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT." THE STATEMENT REPORTEDLY WAS MADE AT A CONGRESS YOUTH MOVEMENT RALLY IN CALCUTTA, AUGUST 18.

3. ADCM SPOKE TO MEA JOINT SECRETARY (AMERICAS) TEJA TODAY (AUGUST 19) AND TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD TAKE THE STRONGEST EXCEPTION TO CONTINUED ALLEGATIONS IN THE INDIAN PRESS OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN THE BANGLADESH COUP. THIS WAS A SLANDEROUS AND TOTALLY FALSE ACCUSATION WHICH CLEARLY CONTRAVENED THE GOI'S OWN CENCORSHIP GUIDELINES AND WAS CALCULATED BY THE PERSONS MAKING THE CHARGES TO DAMAGE INDO-US RELATIONS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT, ADCM TOLD TEJA, FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WHY GOI WAS NOT PREPARED TO TAKE MEASURES TO ENFORCE ITS OWN REGULATIONS AND HALT PUBLICATION OF SUCH ACCUSATIONS. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN INDIA WERE BEING CAUTIONED BY THE GOI ON WHAT THEY WROTE ABOUT BANGLADESH AND EMBASSY ASSUMED GOI PROPOSED TO DO AT LEAST THE SAME FOR ITW OWN PRESSMEN. AFTER ATTEMPTING TO BRUSH OFF THE PRESS REPORTS AS MATTERS THE GOI WAS NOT ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT, TEJA AGREED ONLY TO CALL ADCM'S OBSERVATIONS TO ATTENTION OF "APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES."

4. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WANT TO MAKE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS TO INDIAN EMBASSY AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL.
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